GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PLANNING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3160
ANSWERED ON:23.08.2006
POVERTY RATE
Khan Shri Mohammad Tahir;Patle Shri Shishupal Natthu;Rawat Shri Ashok Kumar;Shiwankar Shri Maha Deo Rao

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government and World Bank have evaluated the rate of poverty of urban and rural areas in the country during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and Year-wise;

(c) whether the percentage of poverty rate is expected to be reduced during the current year as compared to the last three years;

(d) whether the rate of literacy and medical facilities have increased in all the States as result of poverty alleviation programme;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps taken by the Union Government to bring uniformity in the rate of poverty in urban and rural areas of the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN)

(a) & (b): The Planning Commission estimates the incidence of poverty at national and state level from the large sample survey on household consumer expenditure conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) at an interval of approximately five years according to the Expert Group Methodology (Lakdawala Committee on Estimation of Proportion and Number of Poor). The latest available data from such surveys is from NSS 55th Round, which was conducted in 1999-2000.

The percentage of people living below the poverty line in the country using available data from the last three quinquennial rounds of National Sample Survey Organization on household consumption expenditure are given below in the table:

Percentage of people living below poverty line

Year	Percentage of poor		
	Rural	Urban	Combine
1987-88	39.1	38.2	38.9
1993-94	37.3	32.4	36.0
1999-2000	27.1	23.6	26.1

The official estimate of poverty by the Planning Commission is the standard method, which is adopted for uniform calculation of poverty by the Government of India. State-wise the number and percentage of people living below poverty line during the year 1999-2000 in the rural and urban areas is given in Annexure-I.

The World Bank estimates poverty on the basis of purchasing power parity (PPP) which is $1 per day and $2 per day measured in 1985 international prices. On the basis of their latest Report (2006 World Development Indicators) the percentage of persons below $ 1 per day and $ 2 per day during the survey year 1999-2000 is 34.7 and 52.4 respectively. The Government of India does not use this estimate, since it does not distinguish between rural and urban areas or between different States of the country.

(c): Whether the percentage of poverty rate has been reduced during the recent years will be known only when the next poverty estimates are made on the basis of the results of 61st Round

(2004-05) of NSS survey on household consumer expenditure which has not been published.

(d) & (e) : The poverty alleviation programmes do not in general address literacy and medical facilities. However, as observed from the last three Census of India, that the rate of literacy has increased from 43.67 percent in 1981 to 52.10 per cent in 1991 and to 75.26 per cent in 2001.

The Government has also launched a National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) in April, 2005 to provide integrated comprehensive primary healthcare services, especially to the poor and vulnerable sections of the Society. The seven year NRHM (2005-12) was launched with a mandate to address the innumerable infirmities across the domain of health care. The Mission aims to bridge the infirmities in rural healthcare through increased community ownership, decentralization of the programmes to the district level, inter-sectoral convergence and improved primary health care. The Mission aims to achieve the goal of the National Population Policy and the National Health Policy through improved access to affordable, accountable and reliable Primary Health Care. An amount of Rs. 6731.16 crore was allocated under NRHM for the year 2005-06 and an amount of Rs. 9065 crore for the year 2006-07.

(f): The Government has been implementing various programmes/schemes through out the country to address the rate of poverty in urban and rural areas.

In rural areas, the programmes which are being implemented by the Ministry of Rural Development for upliftment of BPL families are
(i) Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana

(SGRY),
(ii) Swaranjayati Gram Swarozar Yojana (SGSY),
(iii) Indira Awas Yojana(IAY), and

(iv) National Rural Employment Guarantee Act.

The poverty alleviation programme which is being implemented in urban areas is Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY). This programme seeks to provide gainful employment to the urban unemployed or underemployed poor through setting up of micro enterprises and also through provision of Wage Employment by utilizing their labour for construction of useful public assets. Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission

(JNNURM) is being implemented in selected 63 Mission Cities. Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme (IHSDP) is applicable to all cities and towns as per the 2001 Census except 63 Mission Cities. The basic objective of IHSDP is to strive for holistic slum development with a healthy and enabling urban environment by providing adequate shelter and basic infrastructure facilities to slum dwellers.

In addition of the above, the Public Distribution System in India has been more focused and targeted towards the very poor category. The `Antyodaya Anna Yojana` provides 35 kgs of food grains to the poorest of the poor families at a highly subsidized rate of Rs. 2 per kg., for wheat and Rs. 3 per kg., for rice. Recently, the coverage of Antyodaya Anna Yojana has been expanded from 2.0 crore (BPL) families to 2.5 crore families in 2005. The State Governments have been advised to give priority to the households from the poorest and the backward blocks and/or where nutritional deficiency is more widespread, while identifying the beneficiaries.

Annexure-I

Number and Percentage of Population Below Poverty Line
by States – 1999-2000

		Rural		Urban		Combined	
No.	States/U.T.`s	No. of Persons (Lakhs)	% of Persons	No. of Persons (Lakhs)	% of Persons	No. of Persons (Lakhs)	% of Persons

1.Andhra Pradesh 58.13 11.05 60.88 26.63 119.01 15.77

2.Arunachal Pradesh 3.80 40.04 0.18 7.47 3.98 33.47

3.Assam 92.17 40.04 2.38 7.47 94.55 36.09

4.Bihar 376.51 44.30 49.13 32.91 425.64 42.60

5.Goa 0.11 1.35 0.59 7.52 0.70 4.40
6.Gujarat 39.80 13.17 28.09 15.59 67.89 14.07

7Haryana 11.94 8.27 5.39 9.99 17.34 8.74

8.Himachal Pradesh 4.84 7.94 0.29 4.63 5.12 7.63

9.Jammu & Kashmir 2.97 3.97 0.49 1.98 3.46 3.48
10.Karnataka 59.91 17.38 44.49 25.25 104.40 20.04
11.Kerala 20.97 9.38 20.07 20.27 41.04 12.72
12.Madhya Pradesh 217.32 37.06 81.22 38.44 298.54 37.43
13.Maharashtra 125.12 23.72 102.87 26.81 227.99 25.02
14.Manipur 6.53 40.04 0.66 7.47 7.19 28.54
15.Meghalaya 7.89 40.04 0.34 7.47 8.23 33.87
16.Mizoram 1.40 40.04 0.45 7.47 1.85 19.47
17.Nagaland 5.21 40.04 0.28 7.47 5.49 32.67
18.Orissa 143.69 48.01 25.40 42.83 169.09 47.15
19.Punjab 10.20 6.35 4.29 5.75 14.49 6.16
20.Rajasthan 55.06 13.74 26.78 19.85 81.83 15.28
21.Sikkim 2.00 40.04 0.04 7.47 2.05 36.55
22.Tamil Nadu 80.51 20.55 49.97 22.11 130.48 21.12
23.Tripura 12.53 40.04 0.49 7.47 13.02 34.44
24.Uttar Pradesh 412.01 31.22 117.88 30.89 529.89 31.15
25.West Bengal 180.11 31.85 33.38 14.86 213.49 27.02
26.A & N Island 0.58 20.55 0.24 22.11 0.82 20.99
27.Chandigarh 0.06 5.75 0.45 5.75 0.51 5.75
28.Dadra & Nagar Haveli 0.30 17.57 0.03 13.52 0.33 17.14
29.Daman & Diu 0.01 1.35 0.05 7.52 0.06 4.44
30.Delhi 0.07 0.40 11.42 9.42 11.49 8.23
31.Lakshadweep 0.03 9.38 0.08 20.27 0.11 15.60
32.Pondicherry 0.64 20.55 1.77 22.11 2.41 21.67

All India 1932.43 27.09 670.07 23.62 2602.50 26.10

Note.

1.Poverty Ratio of Assam is used for Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh,Meghalaya Mizoram,Manipur,Nagaland and Tripura

2.Poverty Line of Maharashtra and expenditure distribution of Goa is used to estimate poverty ratio of Goa.

3. Poverty Line of Himachal Pradesh and expenditure distribution of Jammu & Kashmir is used to estimate poverty ratio of Jammu & Kashmir

4. Poverty Ratio of Tamil Nadu is used for Pondicherry and A & N Island

5. Urban Poverty Ratio of Punjab used for both rural and urban poverty of Chandigarh

6 Poverty Line of Maharashtra and expenditure distribution of Dadra & Nagar Haveli is used to estimate poverty ratio of Dadra & Nagar Haveli

7. Poverty Ratio of Goa is used for Daman & Diu.

8.Poverty Ratio of Kerala is used for Lakshadweep